

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for controlling the communication loads placed upon a human user by ~~from a computer system to an entity~~, the computer system comprising a plurality of information management ~~means~~systems, each of the information management ~~means~~systems being operable to assist ~~an entity with information management tasks and~~ communicate with the human user, the apparatus comprising:

- (i) receiving means for receiving one or more inputs representative of one or more tasks to be performed by ~~each~~the information management ~~means~~system and for receiving information associated with the performance of the one or more tasks from the information management system;
- (ii) generating means for generating an executable task for communicating the received information to the human user;
- (iii) scheduling means for:
 - a) receiving a user workload input representative of user workload identifying the user's current and future activities; and
 - b) scheduling an execution time for said executable task so as to avoid the user's current and future activities identified by the user workload input.
- (ii) ~~scheduling means for scheduling execution of the or each task; and~~
- (iii) ~~execution means for effecting execution of the or each schedule task;~~

characterized in that
~~the scheduling means schedules an explicit execution time for the or each task in~~
~~accordance with predetermined criteria for controlling communication leads on the entity.~~

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the input comprises a change to a previously received input, the scheduling means is operable to change the ~~explicit~~ execution time associated with the previously received input, thereby rescheduling communication of the information ~~execution of the task~~ associated with the previously received input.

3. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus further includes a world model, which world model comprises one or more parameters associated with the or each input, and is accessible to the scheduling means.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the parameters include at least ~~someone~~ one of a start time of the or each task, a deadline time of the or each task, a duration of the or each task and/or interruption status of the ~~entity~~ human user.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the entity can explicitly specify the interruption status for allowing or otherwise interruptions to the ~~entity~~ human user.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, including means for storing ~~entity~~ human user preference information, which ~~entity~~ user preference information includes preferred actions of the ~~entity~~ human user relating to task information.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the world model is maintained by a diary, which diary is responsive to inputs from the execution means and schedules execution of the ~~request~~said task to occur in a free timeslot of the diary.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for assisting in the management of information flows for ~~an entity~~human user according to claim 1 comprising further means operable to concurrently execute a plurality of processes.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information management ~~means~~systems include at least ~~someone~~one of a diary assistant, an email assistant, a telephone assistant and a web assistant.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means responsive to an input signal indicative of a state of mind of ~~an entity~~human user, wherein the scheduling means is further arranged to schedule an execution time for a task in dependence on the received input.

Claim 11 – cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~11~~1, wherein the receiving means (i) is further operable to receive the input indicative of ~~a workload~~an interruption status for the ~~entity~~user.

Claims 13-15 – cancelled.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer programme, or a suite of computer program, comprising a set of instructions, or a suite of a set of instructions, to cause a computer to perform the method according to claim ~~15~~17.

17. (New) A method of controlling the communication load placed upon a human user by a computer system, the computer system comprising a plurality of information management systems, each of the information management systems being operable to assist and communicate with the human user, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) receiving one or more inputs representative of one or more tasks to be performed by the information management system;

(ii) receiving information associated with the performance of the one or more tasks from the information management system;

(iii) generating an executable task for communicating the received information to the human user;

(iv) receiving a user workload input representative of user workload identifying the user's current and future activities; and

(v) scheduling an execution time for said executable task so as to avoid the user's current and future activities identified by the user workload input.

18. (New) A method according to claim 17 further including the step of enabling the information management systems to perform the new task at the scheduled execution time.

19. (New) A digital data carrier containing computer accessible code for loading into a computer for the performance of claim 17.